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## BLACK FLIES ATTRACTED TO MEAT BAIT[1]

(Diptera: Simuliidae)

Bait traps with ground beef as the attractant, set during the summer months of 1954-55 at O'Sullivan Dam, Grant County, Wash., yielded considerable numbers of black flies, *Simulium vittatum* Zett. A preliminary investigation of the literature and personal correspondence with Dr. Alan Stone and Dr. Herbert Dalmat have failed to show any records of black flies having been attracted to meat bait traps.

The traps were placed in the field at six stations, each representing a somewhat different ecological habitat; some were located in dry sage and sand types of environment, whereas others were established along the grassy margins of seepage ponds. The traps were placed in the field at approximately 7 a.m. and allowed to remain until 7 p.m.

The bait traps were of the old-fashioned fly trap variety, that is, a common cylindrical screen with an inverted cone, a white cloth used as a tie at the top, and the entire trap supported by an unpainted plywood frame.

The bait was ground beef with ample quantities of tallow, placed on a piece of white paper towel (which also helps to attract insects) and anchored to the ground with small sticks or nails. The advantage of using ground beef in this area is its moisture-retaining qualities. Freshness of the bait also appeared to be an important factor. Un-

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refrigerated meat that was allowed to age and putrefy seemed to be superior to freshly prepared meat.

Black flies were collected in small, though constant numbers, in all traps from July 12 to October 11, 1954, and from July 9 to August 22, 1955. Altogether, 881 males and 512 females were collected in 1954 and 42 males and 62 females in 1955. The large number for 1954 was due chiefly to a peak of capture on August 17, when a trap left out accidentally for 3 days yielded 766 males and 347 females. This peak was probably not wholly due to the unusually long time of exposure, since a similar, though much smaller peak occurred in 1955; it may have been due to mass emergence of adults.—HARRY G. DAVIS AND MAURICE T. JAMES, *Dept. of Zoology, State College of Washington, Pullman, Wash.*

## THE VALIDITY AND CHANGE OF NAME OF TWO SPECIES OF WYEOMYIA. (DIPTERA, CULICIDAE)

In 1939, when Lane and Cerqueira were working on the "Os Sabetíneos da América" (1942), Del Ponte made available to them a draft description and specimens of a *Dendromyia* which he considered a new species and was about to publish under the name of *rooti*. Considering inadequate the material on which the description was based, and, deeming insufficient the characters that were being given to separate this species, Lane and Cerqueira did not include it in their study. Later, when suitable specimens were obtained, they described the species as *Wyeomyia* (*Dendromyia*) *delpontei* (1942).

Dr. Alan Stone has now called our attention to the fact that Del Ponte mentioned in his paper (1939) sufficient characters for his species, thus making *rooti* a valid name. Such being the case, *Wyeomyia* (*Dendromyia*) *delpontei* Lane & Cerqueira, 1942 becomes a synonym of *Wyeomyia* (*Dendromyia*) *rooti* Del Ponte, 1939. Consequently, *Wyeomyia* (*Antunesmyia*) *rooti* Lane & Cerqueira 1942 becomes an homonym; but, as this species remains valid, we are here changing its name to *alani*, new name, based on the given name of our informant.

The situation of the species under discussion stands therefore as follows:

**Wyeomyia (Autunesmyia) alani,** new name

1942 *Wyeomyia* (*Antunesmyia*) *rooti* Lane & Cerqueira, Arq. Zool. São Paulo 3: 587 nec *Wyeomyia* (*Dendromyia*) *rooti* Del Ponte, 1939, Physis 17: 535-541.

1953 *Wyeomyia* (*Antunesmyia*) *rooti* Lane, Neotropical Culicidae 2: 941.

**Wyeomyia (Dendromyia) rooti** Del Ponte 1939.

1939 *Dendromyia rooti* Del Ponte, Physis 17: 535-541.

1942 syn. *Mycomyia* (*Dendromyia*) *delpontei* Lane & Cerqueira, Arq. Zool. São Paulo 3: 613.

1953 *Wyeomyia* (*Dendromyia*) *delpontei* Lane, Neotropical Culicidae 2: 988.

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